- 1. A polishing head, comprising:
- a housing;
- a backing member to hold a substrate against a polishing pad, the backing member including an opening therein for fluid to flow into contact with the substrate and press the substrate against a polishing pad; and
  - a retainer surrounding the backing member.
- 2. The polishing head of claim 1, wherein the backing member is movable relative to the housing.

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- 3. The polishing head of claim 2, wherein the retainer is movable relative to the housing independently of the backing member.
- 4. The polishing head of claim 1, wherein the backing member includes an edge portion configured to contact a perimeter portion of the back surface of the substrate.
  - 5. The polishing head of claim 4, wherein the edge portion surrounds a pressurizable recess open to and facing a back surface of the substrate.

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- 6. The polishing head of claim 5, wherein the recess covers substantially the entire back surface of the substrate.
- 7. The polishing head of claim 4, wherein the edge portion includes a seal surrounding the recess to contact the substrate.
  - 8. The polishing head of claim 7, wherein the seal comprises a lip seal.
  - 9. The polishing head of claim 7, wherein the seal comprises an O-ring.

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10. The polishing head of claim 1, further comprising a first chamber to provide a first downward force on the backing member.

- 11. The polishing head of claim 10, wherein the first chamber is positioned between the housing and the backing member.
- 5 12. The polishing head of claim 10, further comprising a second chamber to provide a second downward force on the retaining ring.
  - 13. The polishing head of claim 12, further comprising an elastic member to urge the retainer away from the polishing pad.

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- 14. The polishing head of claim 1, wherein the retainer is configured to contact said polishing pad.
  - 15. A method of polishing, comprising:

holding a substrate against a backing member in a carrier head; positioning the substrate against a polishing surface;

directing a fluid through an opening in the backing member to press the substrate against a polishing pad;

creating relative motion between the substrate and the polishing surface; and restraining the substrate from escaping the backing member with a retainer.

- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein holding the substrate includes applying a vacuum to the opening to chuck a substrate to the backing member.
- The method of claim 15, wherein directing fluid includes directing fluid into a recess in the backing member that is open to and facing a back surface of the substrate.
- 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising sealing a perimeter portion of the substrate against the backing member.
  - 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising contacting the polishing pad

with the retainer.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising controlling a pressure of the retainer against the polishing pad.